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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the Ecumenical Federation of Constantinopolitans, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[13 February 2014]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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The 50th Anniversary of the Massive Deportation of the Members of the Greek-Orthodox Minority of Istanbul

The date of 16 March 1964 marks one of the darkest moments in the history of the Greek-Orthodox Community of Istanbul, whose legal status is "supposedly" under the protection of the international Lausanne Treaty of 1923, which incidentally is the founding convention for the recognition of Republic of Turkey. According to the Annex of this Treaty, the convention of the Exchange of Populations between Greece and Turkey, the members of the Greek-Orthodox Community of Istanbul - independent of their citizenship status - were exempted of Population Exchange. The population subject to this exception, named "Etablis", consisted of approximately of 110.000 Greeks holding citizenship of Turkey and 25.000 holding citizenship of Greece as per the official census of 1927. Half of the 25.000 Greek citizens were forced to expatriation during the period of 1932-34 after the "prohibition of 20 professions" by the Law 2007/ 1932 of the Republic of Turkey.

Despite the severe anti-Minority measures on a massive scale of the period 1923-1960 implemented by consequent governments of Turkey such as: mobilization of Minority men aged 18-45 into work battalion camps during the years 1941-42; the implementation of a capital stealth tax towards Minorities aimed at their economical destruction during 1942-44; the massive scale of pogrom in Istanbul on the night of 6-7/9/1955 against the Community members and institutions, the population of the Greek-Orthodox Community remained approximately 100.000 the same until mid-1960's. On 16 March 1964, the Turkish government decided to deport the 12.500 Greek citizens holding the "Etablis" status and who were under the protection of Lausanne Treaty. Under false pretences the government of Turkey at the time, linked this unjustifiable act to the unilateral abolishment of the Commercial and Transportation Agreement between Greece and Turkey signed in 1930. During the period of March-October 1964, 12.500 members of the Greek-Orthodox Community were subject to deportation with the gross scale violation of their human rights: including signing under threat a paper - not allowed to be read - stating that were spying against Turkey in favour of Greece, appropriation all of their properties (real estate or other non-fixed assets) based on a secret decree. The act of deportation of 12.500 members of the Community affected their family members which were in majority holding citizenship of Turkey. Because of this, in a 6 month period, the population of the Community decreased to 30%. The exodus of the members of the Greek-Orthodox Community was accelerated because of the numerous of anti-Minority measures planned and implemented by the Special Minorities Committee (Azinliklar Tali Komisyonu) which was established after the military takeover of 27 May 1960 in Turkey and continued to function until the year 2004. Today the 98% of the Greek-Orthodox Community is living in an expatriation condition.

During the last 3 years the Ecumenical Federation of Constantinopolitans submitted specific proposals to present government of Turkey, demanding remedy and reparation towards the Greek-Orthodox Community of Istanbul taking into account the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/147. The government of Turkey should be encouraged to proceed to remedy and reparation measures towards the Greek-Orthodox Community of Istanbul including the support of the repatriation of those want to return to their homeland and give support to the members of the Community to re-acquire their citizenship and properties.